



# ENVIRONMENTAL Fact Sheet



## Former Burns Air Force Radar Station, Harney County, Oregon

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 10

December 2004

### EPA and DEQ Finish Burns Radar Site Cleanup

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) have finished cleaning up contaminated debris and soil from the former Burns Air Force Radar Station site near Burns, Oregon. EPA and DEQ completed the majority of the work during June, and finished the final tasks during October.

According to EPA On-Scene Coordinator Michael Szerlog, "We took action at the site at the request of DEQ, because we were concerned that the general public, communication workers, and trespassers would be exposed to harmful quantities of asbestos and polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs)." In addition to the contamination, the deteriorating buildings created physical hazards at the site.

#### Cleanup actions completed at the former Burns Air Force Radar Station:

- The EPA contractor removed about 80 cubic yards of friable asbestos insulation from inside of buildings, around the steam pipes and boilers and took it to an approved disposal site.
- The EPA contractor demolished buildings at the site that contained hazardous substances. About 383 tons of asbestos-laden debris were hauled to approved off-site disposal locations. DEQ funded the demolition of additional buildings at the site and hauled about 360 tons of debris to the Harney County landfill.
- The EPA contractor also excavated and removed some 200 tons of surface soil contaminated with polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) and took it to an approved disposal site. The excavated areas were backfilled with clean native soil.
- DEQ and EPA coordinated the recycling of about 60 to 70 tons of scrap steel associated with the demolition.

#### What happens now?

Most of the contamination has been removed from the site by a highly successful cooperative effort between EPA and DEQ. However, small pieces of asbestos-containing materials remain in the soil, such as fragments of cement-asbestos board siding and floor tile that were used as skeet-shooting targets. "The State will continue to watch over the site in the future to make sure no further problems surface," stated DEQ Project Manager David Anderson.



*Dilapidated building before demolition.*



*After cleanup of contaminated debris.*

(Site Background on back)



U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

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## Background

The site is located on top of Burns Butte near the intersection of Hines Logging Road and Radar Lane, about 4 miles southwest of the cities of Burns and Hines, Oregon.

The military facility was constructed between 1954 and 1958 and was operated and maintained

by the Air Force until 1970. Since that time, portions of the site have been owned or leased by various private individuals, school districts, and government agencies. The site has been heavily vandalized and is currently in disrepair.

## Where can I go to learn more about the Burns asbestos and PCB removal?

### For more information, contact:

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### Visit us on the Web:

EPA website:  
<http://www.epaosc.net/BurnsAsbestosRemoval>

DEQ website:  
<http://www.deq.state.or.us/wmc/cleanup/BurnsAF.htm>